

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /083 W
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R 261057Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8315
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, OTRA, VN, TH
SUBJ: SRV DEPUTY FON MIN PHAN HIEN REVISITS BANGKOK

REF: BANGKOK 19020 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN STOPPED OFF
IN BANGKOK JULY 25-26, ENROUTE BACK TO HANOI FOLLOWING
VISITS TO SEVERAL ASIAN COUNTRIES, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW
ZEALAND. IN COMMENTS TO PRESS PHAN HIEN USED SEVERAL NEW
FORMULATIONS OF 'ZONE' PROPOSED BY SRV, ADDING THAT "NO ONE
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WILL FORCE HIS IDEA ON THE REST." PRIME MINISTER
KRIANGSAK, IN COMMENTS TO PRESS AFTER MEETING WITH PHAN
HIEN, SAID THAT ANYONE WHO DESIRES PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS ON A
ZONE OF PEACE. THAI PRESS HAS COMMENTED IN CAUTIOUS TO
CRITICAL VEIN ON PHAN HIEN'S REMARKS. END SUMMARY.
1. SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN PASSED THROUGH

BANGKOK JULY 25-26, ENROUTE BACK TO HANOI FOLLOWING VISITS TO TOKYO, CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, SINGAPORE, AND KUALA LUMPUR. HE MET WITH PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK AND FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT AND MET BRIEFLY WITH PRESS ON ARRIVAL IN BANGKOK JULY 25.

2. PHAN HIEN WAS QUESTIONED BY PRESS ON DISTINCTION BETWEEN LONG-STANDING ASEAN CONCEPT OF ZOPFAN (ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM, AND NEUTRALITY) AND SRV CONCEPT OF "ZONE OF PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, AND GENUINE NEUTRALITY." HIEN SAID THE ZONE PROPOSED BY THE SRV HAS TO BE SET UP STAGE BY STAGE AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, ADDING, "WE WILL DISCUSS VARIOUS METHODS. NO ONE WILL FORCE HIS IDEA ON THE REST." HE REPORTED SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAMESE CONCEPT FROM LEADERS HE MET IN JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE, AND MALAYSIA, STATING THAT NO ONE HAS EXPRESSED OPPOSITION. REGARDING THE NAME OF THE ZONE, HE SAID, "IT CAN BE A ZONE OF PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM, AND NEUTRALITY, OR PEACE AND NEUTRALITY, OR PEACE, ORDER AND PROGRESS."

3. TALKING TO JOURNALISTS AFTER A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH PHAN HIEN JULY 25, PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK SAID THAT, "MOST OF THE CONVERSATION CENTERED ON THE ZONE PROPOSAL. ANYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO HAVE A CONCEPT, BUT ANYONE WHO DESIRES PEACE IN THE REGION SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEM. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT SHOULD NOT BE STRANGE FOR ANYONE TO HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS ALMOST LIKE ASEAN. THE PROBLEM IS WHETHER THE NEW ORGANIZATION CAN COOPERATE WITH THE OLDER ORGANIZATION." KRIANGSAK TERMS THE CONVERSATION AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, ADDING THAT PHAN HIEN "DID NOT TRY TO GET US TO JOIN." HE ADDED THAT THE VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE IS "ALMOST A COPY OF THE ASEAN PROPOSAL." ASKED IF HE WOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS, KRIANGSAK REPLIED, "IF THERE IS TIME, I WILL. WE ALREADY HAVE OUR OWN 'ZONE OF PEACE.' IF THEY WANT TO SET UP THEIR OWN 'ZONE OF PEACE,' THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO."

4. THAI PRESS COMMENT ON THE VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS TO CRITICAL. BANGKOK POST COMMENTED JULY 26 THAT, "WE FEEL SOME CONCERN THAT VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN DECLINED TO SAY ANYTHING POSITIVE FOR THE ASEAN IDEA.... BECAUSE OF THE APPARENT SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TWO 'ZONE' VERSIONS, ONE WOULD EXPECT AT THE VERY LEAST A STATEMENT APPROVING THE ASEAN OBJECTIVE, WITH POSSIBLY A RESERVATION THAT IT DID NOT FILL THE BILL AS

DESIRED BY HANOI. NEITHER THE ASEAN ALLIES NOR VIETNAM CAN HAVE REASON TO OPPOSE THE SUGGESTION THAT PEACE IS NEEDED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.... WE EVEN SUBSCRIBE TO THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, BUT SO FAR HANOI HAS NOT ACTUALLY SPELLED OUT WHAT IT MEANS BY 'PEACE.'"

5. IN A MORE CRITICAL VEIN NATION COMMENTED JULY 26 THAT, "VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN SAID HERE YESTERDAY THAT THE VIETNAMESE VERSION OF THE ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT HAS BEEN WARMLY WELCOMED IN ALL THE COUNTRIES HE VISITED. TO SAY THE LEAST, THIS IS DELIBERATE UNTRUTH OR

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GROSS DISTORTION OF FACT, SINCE NO ASEAN MEMBER WILL PAY LIP-SERVICE TO ANY VERSION OTHER THAN THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION OF THE ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM, AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN) MADE IN NOVEMBER, 1971. ASEAN DOES NOT WANT SEVERAL VERSIONS OF ZOPFAN FLOATING IN THE AIR AS IF THE ORIGINAL WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH."

6. EMBASSY WILL REVIEW PHAN HIEN VISIT WITH MFA IN NEXT
FEW DAYS AND REPORT ANY FURTHER COMMENTS ON IT. O'DONOHUE

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